

Reminiscences

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DOWN MEMORY LANE

Let's take another turn down memory lane with Mrs. Joseph Bolton, who has an album full of nostalgic snapshots and postcards showing the old stagecoaches, hacks, scenes along the waterfront and winding dusty roads.

Born in 1893, Mrs. Bolton can remember as a little girl when there used to be sleigh races along St. George St. past the Wright estate during the winters that seemed snowier than. She recalls three or four years of such races beginning around 1905. Those were gay, carefree Sundays for the folks in horse-drawn sleighs. When it got cold they raced on the larger ponds in the vicinity, and one year, when it was so cold they Bay froze over, she remembers that her father, Henry A. Briggs (she is Eben Briggs' sister) carried sleighfuls of merry passengers out to Clark's Island and back! She places that frigid day between 1902 and 1904, and thinks the sleigh headed for Clark's Island around 6 a.m. They had to return before the incoming tide buckled the ice into floes.

In her memory you can see the change in life's tempo. Her father's parents thought nothing of packing food and bedclothes into a sort of covered wagon and camping overnight in the woods around Middleboro. When she was a girl she had a pony to ride. But life had its grimmer moments. Sometimes there was no wind for the windmill that pumped water for the horses in the Briggs' livery stable, and the family had to use hand-pumps. And during severe blows when there were high course tides it was not unusual for the cellar of the house and barn to be flooded.

She can remember when the telephone to the Gurnet--one of the first in town--was installed in her house. She can also remember when, in the storm of 1902, the barge ETTA A. STIMPSON was grounded off High Pines. Tons and tons of coal were dumped on the beach, and was promptly wheeled away in barrows and tip-carts. It was fun.